

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15 USIA-06
PRS-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 /049 W
-----081253 210656Z /15
R 201456Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASH DC 463

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT

SUBJ: DOUZE MARS DOOZY (OR BEWARE THE DOUZE OF MARCH)

1. FROM ALL INDICATIONS MARCH 12, 1978, THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF PRESIDENT BONGO'S RENOVATION DAY PROCLAMATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF GABONESE DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDG), IS GOING TO BE CELEBRATED WITH GABONESE VERSION OF ECLAT AND ELAN IN LIBREVILLE. THE MANAGER OF THE UNFINISHED SHERATON HOTEL HAS BEEN DIRECTED TO PREPARE 200 ROOMS TO RECEIVE GUESTS (AS HE DID DURING THE OAU SUMMIT) MARCH 8-15. SEVERAL AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE ARE INVITED AND EXPECTED TO ATTEND. THE PARISIAN TAILORING HOUSE, CHANCELLOR, IS DESIGNING NEW DRESS FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE PDG POLITICAL BUREAU. SCHOOL CHILDREN HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ASSEMBLE THE REQUIRED MARCHING OUTFIT. PDG COMMITTEES ALL OVER GABON ARE PRACTICING NEW METHODS OF CHANTING THE PRAISES OF BONGO.

2. RENOVATION DAY HAS TRADITIONALLY SEEN A BIGGER CELEBRATION THAN INDEPENDENCE DAY BUT THERE IS CLEARLY AN EFFORT TO MAKE THIS YEAR'S CELEBRATION MORE SPECTACULAR THAN ANY OTHER. IT BEGINS BUILDING UP IN EARLY DECEMBER WITH A SPECIAL TWO DAY HOLIDAY FOR THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF BONGO'S ACCESSION TO

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THE PRESIDENCY, INCREASED IN TEMPO FOR HIS DECEMBER 30 BIRTHDAY AND IS NOW CULMINATING WITH A CLIMACTIC MARCH 12 CRESCENDO. WE NOTE IT AT THIS TIME PRIMARILY TO ALERT DEPARTMENT THAT WE SUSPECT THE USG WILL BE INVITED TO SEND A SPECIAL EMISSARY TO THE CELEBRATIONS.

YATES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LIBREV00159
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780032-0389
Format: TEL
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780141/aaaabieb.tel
Line Count: 61
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4822c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3741910
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DOUZE MARS DOOZY (OR BEWARE THE DOUZE OF MARCH)
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, GB
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4822c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014